

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 00424 231803Z

60  
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 EB-11

COME-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /116 W  
----- 063859

R 231734Z JAN 74  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9687  
INFO USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR  
USDELMC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
DIA WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL BRUSSELS 0424

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, BEXP, BE  
SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104

REF: STATE 12937

1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE WASHINGTON SUPPORT EXPRESSED  
IN REFTEL FOR FIELD EFFORTS TO ASSIST AMERICAN AIRCRAFT  
MANUFACTURERS ATTEMPTING TO SELL AMERICAN REPLACEMENT  
FOR F-104. WE HAVE ALREADY ON EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION  
DRAWN ON ARGUMENTS AND IDEAS REVIEWED IN REFTEL AND  
PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS FROM FIELD (BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE,  
USNATO, OSLO, COPENHAGEN) IN TALKS WITH SENIOR LEVELS OF  
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 00424 231803Z

COMING WEEKS. IN LIGHT OF OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS, WE

PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THIS DIALOGUE WITH WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AS POLICY REVIEW MENTIONED IN PARA 2 REFTEL COMPLETED.

2. CURRENT BELGIAN POLITICAL SITUATION FOLLOWING FALL OF LEBURTON GOVERNMENT ON JANUARY 19 INTRODUCES SOME UNCERTAINTY INTO SITUATION BUT ON PLUS SIDE PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TIME FOR U.S. EFFORTS (BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC) TO PLAY ROLE IN GOB DECISION MAKING. PREVIOUS MINISTERS ARE REMAINING IN PLACE IN CARETAKER STATUS BUT ARE, UNABLE TO MAKE PURCHASE DECISION. HOWEVER, AS INFORMED LOCAL SOURCE PUT IT, WHILE CHAIRS MAY BE DIFFERENT PLAYERS WILL BE THE SAME. FORMATION OF NEW BELGIAN CABINET MAY TAKE TWO MONTHS OR MORE (PARTICULARLY IF ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD, AS NOW APPEARS HIGHLY PROBABLE). ONLY AFTER FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT CAN POLITICAL LEVEL ATTENTIONS FOCUS ON F-104 REPLACEMENT.

3. MEANWHILE TECHNICAL LEVEL STUDIES (MILITARY AND ECONOMIC) CONTINUE UNDERWAY WITHIN GOB, OFFERING US OPPORTUNITIES TO REPEAT EXISTING ARGUEMENTS AND TO INTRODUCE NEW ONES AS THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO US. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IT GIVES OUR COMPANIES MORE TIME TO WORK ON THEIR PROPOSALS WITH BELGIANS.

4. INTERREGNUM ALSO PROVIDES MORE TIME FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN BELGIAN, DUTCH, DANISH, AND NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS (POSSIBLY WITH GERMAN SUPPORT). IN SUM, BELGIAN POLITICAL CRISIS MAY OFFER US A BIT MORE SCOPE AND WE SHOULD PROFIT FROM IT.

5. OCCASIONAL RUMORS ABOUT BELGIAN INTEREST IN ANGLO-FRENCH JAGUAR APPEAR TO BE COMPLETELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. BOTH DEFENSE ATTACHE AND MAAG CHIEF AIR FORCE SECTION HAVE INVESTIGATED THIS SUBJECT RECENTLY AND WERE TOLD BY CHIEF OF STAFF BELGIAN AIR FORCE THAT JAGUAR IS NOT RPT NOT UNDER CONSIDERATION. STRAUSZ-HUPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, CONTRACTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JAN 1974  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BRUSSE00424  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740123/aaaaautp.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 12937  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR F-104  
**TAGS:** MASS, BEXP, BE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005